GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:351
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
CONFERENCE OF FOREST MINISTERS ON FOREST MANAGEMENT
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of All India Forest Ministers was held recently to discuss various issues relating to forest management as reported in The Hindu dated January 23, 2008;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions thereof;

(c) whether joint strategies are needed to check interstate cross border activities of poachers for sale and export of animal products and plant species; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a)&(b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has conducted a conference of Forest Secretaries/ Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Wardens of all States/ UT Governments to discuss issues related to forest and wildlife conservation on 12 −13 February, 2008 at New Delhi. Various agenda items such as Strategies for increasing Forest and Tree Cover, implementation of the recommendation of National Forest Commission, Filling of vacancies and Promotional avenues of front line staff in the forest department, Implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, Man −Animal conflicts and conservation of wildlife including Tiger Conservation were discussed. State of Forest Report 2005 and Tiger Census Report were also released during the Conference.

(c)&(d) The Government of India has constituted Wildlife Crime Bureau, a statutory body under Section 38-Y of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to facilitate checking of cross border activities of poachers and those engaged in inter-state sale and export of animal products and plant species as specified in section 38-Z of the said Act.